

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 094257

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:XGDS-3

TAGS:PFOR, US, VN

SUBJECT: US-VN RELATIONS: PARIS TALKS, MODALITIES

REF: PARIS 12095

1. WE SEE NO PROBLEMS WITH ARRANGEMENTS AS DESCRIBED REF-TEL. RE PARA 1C, WE HAVE DECIDED, FOR INTIAL ROUND AT LEAST, TO BRING A FRENCH INTERPRETER TO TRANSLATE OUR ENGLISH INTO FRENCH AS SUGGESTED BY DO THANH. WE APPRECIATE THE VIETNAMESE OFFER TO HAVE THEIR INTERPRETER GO BOTH WAYS AND MAY TAKE THEM UP ON IT LATER WHEN WE SEE HOW THINGS DEVELOP. ALEC TOUMAYAN WILL BE OUR INTERPRETER AT THE MAY 3 MEETING.

2. ON PRESS HANDLING OF THE MEETING, YOU SHOULD TAKE UP THE FOLLOWING POINTS WITH VIETNAMESE AT EARLIEST CONVEN-
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IENT TIME:

A. WE WOULD HOPE THAT, AT THE START OF THE MEETING, PHOTOGRAPHS (BOTH STILL AND FILM) WILL BE PERMITTED AS WAS DONE IN HANOI.

B. THERE WILL PROBABLY BE GREAT INTEREST IN PHOTOGRAPHS

OF THE ARRIVAL OF OUR DELEGATION OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE

SITE ALSO. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THIS PROVIDED THERE IS ADEQUATE CROWD CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES. INASMUCH AS THE VIETNAMESE ARE THE HOSTS OF THIS SESSION, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE APPROPRIATE FOR THEM TO MAKE THOSE ARRANGEMENTS.

C. OUR BRIEFINGS SHOULD BE HELD AT THE END OF THE MEETING. IF, AS DO THANH SUGGESTS, THE MEETING GOES BEYOND THE FIRST DAY, THE SPOKESMEN SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO SAY THAT, "THE TWO SIDES MET FOR APPROXIMATELY X HOURS AND AGREED TO CONTINUE THE MEETING TOMORROW. THERE WILL BE NO COMMENTS ON TODAY'S DISCUSSIONS BUT WE EXPECT TO BRIEF THE PRESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE MEETING CONCLUDES."

D. WE HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED THAT RICHARD HOLBROOKE WILL BE THE HEAD OF OUR DELEGATION. WE HAVE HAD MANY REQUESTS FROM OUR MEDIA FOR THE NAME OF THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION LEADER, BUT DO NOT FEEL IT APPROPRIATE FOR US TO DISCLOSE THIS. THE VIETNAMESE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER INFORMING THE PRESS OF THIS. WE EXPECT, IN THE COURSE OF OUR NORMAL PRESS CONTACTS LATER THIS WEEK, TO MAKE PUBLIC THE COMPOSITION OF THE REST OF OUR PARTY.

E. OTHER MORE SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS RELATED TO PRESS HANDLING WOULD BE DISCUSSED BY PRINCIPALS DURING THE MEETING MAY 3.

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